

Applicant Workshop Summer 2006

The Transportation Enhancement program requires a relationship to surface transportation but is a set aside for non-traditional highway projects.

These projects are intended to improve non-motorized transportation, enhance the public's traveling experience, revitalize communities and improve the quality of life.







Program History

- In 1991, the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) amended Title 23 establishing the Surface Transportation Program
- Section 133 (d) (2) required a 10% set-aside per state for Enhancement activities
- The Transportation Enhancement program was continued with passage of TEA-21 signed in 1998; and SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) legislation enacted in August 2005
- SAFETEA-LU will be in effect through 2009

Basic Guidelines

- Anyone can apply as long as they have a governmental entity to sponsor the project
- This is a reimbursable program, not a grant
- A minimum 20% local match is required
- A public hearing is required prior to application for funds
- The project must have a local government or governmental agency resolution of support
- If the project is in an MPO area, an MPO endorsement is required (EXCEPTION: the Northern Virginia MPO has waived this requirement)

- **Federal authorization is required at each developmental phase**
- **Design must adhere to AASHTO standards**
- **Facility must be ADA accessible and meet ADA guidelines**
- **Facility must be open and available to the public**
- **Construction requires a competitive bidding process with an award to the lowest bidder – no negotiation permitted**



Must have a relationship to the *surface* transportation system

AND

Must qualify under at least one of the 12 eligible Enhancement Activities

A relationship may be established by:

Function – sidewalk, trail, visitor center, depot

Impact – mitigation of highway runoff; displaying artifacts found as a result of roadway construction

Proximity – acquisition of a scenic easement; removal of non-conforming billboards

***Note:** proximity alone is not enough to establish a relationship

Eligible

- New or reconstructed sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps
- Shared-use trails
- Bicycle racks, lockers and bus racks
- Bike lanes or widened shoulders for bicycles
- Bike and pedestrian bridges or underpasses

Not Eligible

- Maintenance activities
- Recreational facilities
- Activities conducted as a routine or incidental part of new roadway projects:
 - Bike lanes
 - Sidewalks
 - Landscaping

Sidewalk Improvements, Town of Gloucester







Eligible

- **Non-construction bicycle and pedestrian safety related activities:**
 - **Safety campaign or promotion**
 - **Safety training**
 - **Training materials, videotapes, maps, and brochures**

Not Eligible

- **Activities that are currently funded and provided by the community:**
 - **Police Bike Patrols**
 - **School Safety Patrols**



Eligible

- Acquisition of scenic or historic land including battlefields, that enhance the transportation experience
- Acquisition of conservation easements to preserve scenic vistas and historic landscapes
- Purchase of buildings in historic districts

Not Eligible

- Land that may later be developed in a manner degrading the scenic character
- Land purchased to protect an internal view shed





Activity 4: Scenic or Historic Highway Programs including Welcome Centers

Eligible

- Pull-offs and overlooks
- Interpretive markers and designation signs
- Tourist and welcome centers that support and interpret scenic/historic highways or scenic/historic sites

Not Eligible

- Construction or repair of safety rest areas
- Maintenance, staffing, or operating costs of welcome centers









Eligible

- Landscaping along streets, trails, historic highways, and water-fronts
- Street furniture
- Historic lighting fixtures
- Gateways

Not Eligible

- Maintenance activities such as mowing and pruning











Eligible

- Restoration and reuse of historic buildings for transportation related purposes
- Non-motorized access improvements to historic buildings and sites
- Preservation of scenic and / or historic site within an historic district

Not Eligible

- Replica of historic transportation facility
- Restoration of any historic structure not having a relationship to transportation











Eligible

- Railway depots and train stations
- Rail trestles, bridges and tunnels
- Lighthouses
- Canal facilities
- Historic inns and taverns

Not Eligible

- Properties that will operate on a profit basis
- Properties that will not be open to the public
- Maintenance and operating expenses





Staunton River Battlefield, Charlotte County



Rice's Hotel & Hughlett's Tavern, Northumberland County



Activity 8: Preservation of Abandoned Railway Corridors & Conversion to Trails

Eligible

- Acquisition of abandoned railroad R/W for use as a trail facility
- Planning, design, and construction of multi-use trails

Not Eligible

- Projects solely for rail preservation

Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail, Nelson County



Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail, Roanoke County



James River Footbridge, Amherst County



Eligible

- Creation of a billboard inventory
- Purchase and removal of illegal and non-conforming billboards

Not Eligible

- Billboards listed under VDOT's current billboard removal program

Eligible

- Recordation and public exhibit of artifacts previously recovered along a transportation corridor
- Developing interpretive signs, exhibits and guides
- Archeological research on sites eligible for TE funding

Not Eligible

- Projects strictly providing for excavation and archeological study





•Eligible

- Storm drain stenciling and river cleanups
- Wetlands acquisition and restoration to filter highway run-off
- Detention and sediment basins as related to water pollution
- Wildlife underpasses or overpasses

Not Eligible

- Improvements that are required by law for federal-aid highway projects
- Projects that don't maintain habitat connectivity for threatened and endangered species



Eligible

- Construction of a new facility or conversion of an existing structure
 - museum must meet the 7 criteria for eligibility
- Purchase of artifacts and fabrication of displays

Not Eligible

- Land and/or building purchase beyond that needed for the transportation museum
- Air museum or any artifacts related to aviation or space travel
- Operating and maintenance costs

Steamboat Era Museum, Town of Irvington











Robert Russa Moton Museum, Town of Farmville



The application references both an Applicant and a Project Sponsor

These may be the same

If a non-profit group applies however, they must have a local government, state, or federal agency sponsoring the project. This governmental agency must be identified on the application as Project Sponsor.

Federal Enhancement Funds Requested

- This is the dollar amount of federal funds being requested *in this application*. It cannot exceed 80% of the total project / phase cost
- Do not include prior or future funding requests
- Do not include match or other non-federal funds
- Federal funds requested on any single application cannot exceed \$1 million

- This is the 20% local match requirement – the 20% is over and above any grant amount you receive. The 20% match *does not* equal 20% of the grant amount

EX: If you request \$50,000 in federal funds to pay for 80% of your project costs, the match would be computed as follows:

$\$50,000 \div 0.8 = \$62,500$ project costs

$\$62,500 - \$50,000 = \$12,500$ match

Match Breakdown by Source

- **Provide a description and estimated value of cash, services, materials, and / or volunteer labor anticipated to be used to fulfill the match requirement**
- **Identify all other funding sources including other grant awards, donations, etc.**
- **Identify if the source is confirmed (in hand) or anticipated**



- **Application must include a budget reflecting the total estimated cost of the project. This should include all design, land acquisition, utility and construction costs. If the project is to be done in multiple phases, identify the costs for each proposed phase.**
- **Be as detailed as possible including all incidental costs. In some cases not all items are eligible for the program; a detailed budget will help identify these.**
- **Include allowance for VDOT project charges on environmental document reviews, plan reviews, approval of appraisals, and inspection as required; typically 2 – 5% of the project cost.**

- Relationship to Transportation
- Demonstrated Need
- Project Usefulness and Benefit
- Amenities/Support Facilities
- Educational/Historical Value
- Project Resources

- Evidence of economic, safety, transportation, or preservation need
- Documentation or photos of existing deficiencies
- Evidence of other revitalization and / or improvement efforts underway or planned
- Evidence to show current facilities are inadequate
- Clearly identify if the proposed project includes *new* sidewalks and/or trail facilities

- Project will serve as a visitor center or transportation museum
- Documentation of community support
- Evidence provided to show project will have a positive economic impact
- Project will connect multiple transportation facilities (trails, sidewalks, public transit, etc.)
- Project will provide an alternate mode of transportation and air quality benefits
- Project will increase tourism by being a primary destination

- Support facilities such as parking, restrooms, and bike racks included in proposal or available
- ADA access and / or improvements included
- Safety considerations included in proposal
- Multiple modes of access available or proposed (road, sidewalks, public transit, etc.)
- Pull-offs, informational kiosks, maps included as part of the project

- **Site has local scenic / historic significance**
- **Project includes restoration of an historic transportation facility**
- **Project is located within or will enhance an historic district or site**
- **Interpretation and / or distribution of educational / historical information planned**
- **Site is on or eligible for the National Register**

- Financial support and required property have been secured
- Previous phase under construction or complete
- Preliminary design has begun / is underway
- Evidence of strong community involvement (fund raisers, volunteers, etc.)
- This request will fully fund a project phase or complete the project

- This portion should only be filled out for projects that have received prior TE funds
- If possible, identify how prior funds have been allocated. For example: Began engineering (50% complete); Acquisition of property; Partial funding for construction of Phase I

- **Include pictures and location map of the proposed project area; color code different phases**
- **Include letters of support from local organizations, businesses, and citizens**
- **Include any conceptual drawings available**
- **Include a “responsibly” prepared estimate for projected cost**
- **Document community participation**
- **Provide data to support projected economic benefits, revitalization, and user-ship**



- Applications are scored by EN staff, scoring committee, and VDOT District representatives
- Scores are averaged and presented to the CTB members in rank order
- District CTB representatives make first selections then at-large members meet as a committee to make “statewide” selections

CTB Policy Decisions

- **Transportation Board has established policy to divide the annual allocation of TE funds into equal shares amongst the Secretary of Transportation and CTB members**
- **Transportation Board has committed to funding a minimum 25% of the federal funds requested for projects that are selected**
- **Transportation Board has set an award limit of \$1 million per application per year**
- **Transportation Board requires that the project be completed within four (4) years of the availability of federal funding**
- **Transportation Board has modified the score sheets to assist traditional sidewalk and trail projects in scoring**

- **May / June 2006 – application workshops**
- **November 1, 2006 – application deadline**
- **Nov. 2006 – Feb. 2007 – scoring of new applications by Enhancement staff and scoring committee**
- **March 2007 – Tentative Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) selections announced**
- **May 2007 – Final CTB selections announced**
- **October 2007 – new Federal fiscal year begins**

These are locally administered projects. If your project is awarded federal TE funds you will be responsible for all phases of project development. You will also be responsible for meeting all state and federal laws and regulations.

We offer public workshops for Project Sponsors after selections are made and will review the applicable state and federal requirements with you.

See our website at:

www.VirginiaDOT.org

From the Home Page select “Programs”

Click on “Transportation Enhancement Projects”

- **General program information**
- **Application**
- **MPO Listing**
- **Sample Resolution**
- **Contact Us**



